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I am deeply surprised and grieved to note some deplorable
instincts which certainly were not inherited. Once when taken
on a visit to Easneye, I was enjoying the phase of the catapult
and had acquired considerable skill. I can hardly believe it
now, but I certainly did repeatedly pick off thrushes' nests in
the small fir trees at Easneye while the thrush was sitting.
The noise she made in dashing off is still clear to me.

It must have been about the same time that I invited Smith, the well-known butler, to witness my skill with the catapult at Grosvenor Crescent. About half-way the enormous stairs hung the portrait which the King of the Belgians had given to Father, and I remember getting Smith to express scepticism when I said I could put a stone through his nose. I proceeded to do this, and what was much worse, I don't think I ever confessed. It showed prophetic instinct because this man proved a blood-thirsty tyrant on the Congo, and later on the portrait was rightly removed from any place of honour. If Tom finds the portrait some day when he clears the store room, he will find a hole through the canvas where my stone hit the old villain.

If I am to continue my confessions, I ought to record that time when the Colne Cottage garden contained a small greenhouse in the S.E. corner of the little old garden. This was disused and full of snails. I am ashamed to say I taught Marley the sport of attacking these snails as they moved along, with

at their distended horns, made them suddenly shrink into their shells. I don't think I corrupted Marley with another sport which occupied me when a little boy, when Mother was being tended by Ahmar at the looking glass facing the great window of Mother's bedroom. Hidden by this from her and Ahmar, I enjoyed tearing up the flies at the foot of the window. I remember that Ahmar used to tell Mother of my sins, especially my having broken the glass of some picture with my bow and arrow, which I refused to admit, but Mother was unwilling to believe her charges.

When I was still small I remember his fury when he lost his favourite "Zanzibar", which was being ridden as his second horse by a groom, and was jumped on to a stake by Obelisk Wood.

He bred one or two goals every year, and very good they were.

The most lovely hackneys I ever saw were his chestnuts
"Danube" and "Cyprus", names recording history as was his custom. It was most fond of the dormouse to be which I found in the forest hibernating in a ball of leaves

summer, and tried to train for hawking.

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experiences which we thought were our own invention, and the same applies to steam engines; the raft made of brewery casks; and the inflatable boat, which could be worn as a waterproof coat. All these things led to efforts, and to reading up new subjects.

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recollect constant walks to the home farm. Every Tuesday we rode to Waltham, and every Friday to Epping, as he was chairman of the Bench at both. I myself, when we had a schoolroom at the Bury, never dard to interrupt lessons, but he did constantly; and we have him ever so much for freely doing so when he took us to shows and public events. I remember visits to the London Fire Brigade, the Buckingham Palace stables, the Bible Society House, and he was very fond of the show at the Westminster Aquarium.

I wonder what public occasion it was when I was handed along over the heads of a dense crowd. In Norfolk he took me to Autumn shoots, where I must have been toughened by walking and

standing all day long, and returning in the evening soaking wet on an outside seat, when I remember him saying to somebody, "It doesn't matter their being wet if you wrap them up warm."

A great thing he did for us to make us fond of birds.

I remember his carrying a nesting box into the house with the tit sitting on the eggs to show the bird to Mother; and one of his frequent delights was to bring out one of the magnificent volumes of Gould's Birds, and turn over the lovely plates with us. Gould was regarded as something almost sacred because of its superb get-up. We did not turn the pages ourselves, because we might crease them or soil them. Every picture was amply worth hanging on a sitting-room wall. He taught us to distinguish harmless snakes from adders, and one result was that snakes which we brought into the house got loose. In the northern wing the servants, who lived there in large numbers, then refused to stay in their rooms, and migrated to the swanky rooms on the gallery of the hall.

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I wonder whether he gave in to avoid trouble or to educate me. An event which looked like the former a weekend occurred long afterwards when some party was leaving on a Monday morning, and among them Cecil Harris. As we drove away, the crash of a falling plane tree roused my indignation! distress. It was the tree which stood behind the big ilex, and Father had long wished to remove it. I had dissuaded him, but he at last decided to be bullied no longer, and had ordered the tree to be cut on that Mionday. Finding the men had arrived to cut it before we had left home, he took Cecil Harris into his confidence, and asked him to get me away before the tree fell. This I learned from all the greater because Ceasif felt us sympa Cecil Harris, owing to the plan to elude me having failed. The other theory, that he did things to educate me, was illustrated by his giving me the Bury when I was still only just of age. Ostensity this unusual gift was made in order to qualify me for a Parliamity

I think that great importance really attaches to the use we made of the Cobbin brook. Considering that most boys of our sort are introduced to trout fishing early in life, and know hardly anything about catching roach with dough, or perch with worms, it was a feat on my father's part to get his boys to find complete satisfaction in the fishing provided by a small brook - in fact, so small that it stopped running in summer.

We got exciting sport out of sticklebacks and minnows.

It became thrilling to get a gudgeon, a chub or a carp was by We never caught a pike on a line, but they became an exciting feature when Tor had somehow secured a minute drag net with a mesh so fine that it held sticklebacks.

Dragging the brook with this net remained an exciting sport long after we had gone to Harrow, and it came to be combined with cooking the catch for a picnic lunch.

We discovered that minnows wrapped in wet paper and roasted in the ashes of a wood fire made excellent eating; or at least, good enough when flavoured by the romantic excitement which the brook offered.

The net was only about 8 or 10 feet long, and less than 3 feet deep. The pools had to be cleared of sticks and stones to begin with, because, if left in the pool, they entangled the net and the fish got under it. We often got small pike in these diminutive pools, and sometimes, when the brook had ceased to run for a time, the pike had eaten every other fish in the pool.

Perhaps the most memorable catch was when we took to setting night lines in the pool above the dam where the water was deep and the eels had been fattening on a sheep which had fallen in and been drowned. Charlie, in the neighbourhood of the sheep, had an eel of $2\frac{1}{4}$ lbs., which was really remarkable for such a tiny stream.

Long after this, Charles de Bunsen and I, when tired of pike fishing in Cobbin Pond, tried our hand at spearing gudgeon with a penknife tied to the end of a stiff rod. It was a sport that might well have developed if we had thought of it sooner. But anyhow, we got out of this brook an amazing amount of education, and we learnt the attraction of small and simple things.

I learnt to swim in the Temple pond, but it was in the brook that I had already learnt to float, and I remember the sensation when I was just able to keep clear of the bottom, and floating was just possible.

VICTORIAN CUSTOMS.

Life at Warelees represented the country house of the past, with a mistress brought up in the "lady bountiful" tradition. Every day at lunch, a basket of peculiar shape was seen on the side-board. It contained two jars, in which my mother placed some of the savoury meats. and sweets which had formed the meal. As Mother could not walk, the governess and we were employed to take these to some sick or needy cottagers, and this formed our outing almost every day when we were not riding with Father. As to the attitude of the village people themselves, there were many old women who still curtsied when they passed Mother on the road, and even us children. At Christmas, it was a noble relic of the past, when all of

on Imar Eve all

the cottage tenants assembled in front of the portico, before long trestled tables laden with huge blocks of beef. These functions were always attended by all of us, and my father made a short soeech before the agent began calling the names, and each man filed past, carrying off his chunk of beef in a cloth which he had brought.

There were four long portable benches kept in the passage just outside the hall, and brought in for prayers. At the back sat a goodly array of footmen, and it seems the series of these days that these men should have been supplied with a great variety of dress. When they did duty on the top of the carriage they wore top hats with curious composition rosettes stuck to the side, and at dinner parties in London it was common for a footman to wear plush knickers and a special pelaborate tail coat, and to have his hair thickly powdered. For the because they enabled us he fit to the because they would us he fit to the because they enabled us he fit together a because they

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Inactivity must have been a dreadful trial to her. Her extreme energy in playing accompaniments represented I suppose a means of giving vent to force which had not other outlets; and once when I came up from private school I remember how active she looked in a lovely sealskin coat, and how far handsomer she was than I had noticed before.

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The other theory that he did things to educate me was illustrated by his giving me the Bury when I was still only just of age.

When I was fifteen Father and Uncle Henry designed a Swiss climbing holiday, and we arrived at Zermatt. I was too stupid to admire the mountains (except the Matterhorn) or to enjoy the painful exertion of climbing, or the practice of starting at 4 a.m. without any time for breakfast. The only thing I found attractive was birds in the woods below, or the lawn tennis, and by chance also a bit of fun which Redmond and I had when, under our hotel window we saw a much-hated Harrow master, and hastily poured a jug of water on his head.

I was longing to get home, and am glad to say that I had sufficient enterprise to ask if I might accompany an old cousin who was going back to England. My prayer was granted. I went home happily with the old cousin and a marmot to come in for a memorable delightful time at home, where we were a large party with Fanny and Conrad.

Our habit was to play cricket on the lawn until we felt inclined for food: then to ravage the plum trees on the garden wall, and fish for pike in the evening in Stokes' pit. Connie caught one of $5\frac{3}{4}$ lbs., and Fanny one of $6\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

One of Father's inventions was, as he said, to teach ponies to lift their feet by galloping across Nazing Common where it was most thick with ant hills. I suppose he did this to try and rid us of funk, as the ponies inevitably stumbled.

Is it possible that he did not know that we fired cannons to our imminent danger. It seems likely because Tor's amusement was to fill the cannon with gunpowder to the muzzle, and make it burst. On the other hand Tor was so honest that I don't think he ever would have concealed his prank, and also, how did he get the gunpowder flask except from Father?

It seems to be extraordinary that private school boys of twelve should not only shoot ferreted rabbits, but also shoot with a party as we did for a whole week on end at the Cromer January shoots, when we school boys were collected at Colne House.

Certainly the grown ups who joined the parties without the motive attached to Father's showed some courage. I remember a woodcock flying low along the side of a covert, and several boys blazing at it, followed by yells from Bertie Barclay in the covert.

He came out at the end of the beat, protesting loudly and saying the battle of Waterloo was nothing to it. But the boys were merely convulsed with laughter.

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Few very earnest people are given to fun, but Mother was a born humorist. In the intense atmosphere of the Keswick Evangelical Conference she was at one and the same time engrossed in Bishop Moule's addresses, and in mimicking the oddity of a native African who begged for volunteers for foreign missions, and whose argument consisted in frantically shouting, "Go! Go!". She also derived great fun from ridiculing herself - her paraphernalia of air cushions and prone couches, and the footman carrying water beds, though these were the features of a most painful fate. And it was half fun when she talked of herlove of religion and her deep enjoyment of the words: "I hate them that hate Thee, O Lord, Yea, I hate them with a perfect hatred".

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GRANDMOTHER

Grandmother, the venerable lady of Colne House, was one of the chief influences of my life. For many years we lived with her at Cromer every autumn. When I was twelve and stayed with her for the ringworm episode she inspired both fear and liking. She compelled me to learn the 12th chapter of Romans, and though I remember resenting this, I have hundreds of Times been grateful to her for it. If she took as much interest in all her countless descendants as she did in me she must have had miraculous energy, but I think she found me specially ready to respond to her.

Somehow she was always sympathetic about one's doings.

When I had gone into business, and also, at Father's desire, joined the Territorials and became major in the and Tower Hamlets, it was difficult case for one of her Quaker upbinging. Her expreme sympathy clashed with her pacifism, and she told me in the most charming way how she would like to subscribe to Regimental Funds, but she really wished that I was not joining the Forces.

I must have been a definite admirer by that time because I conspired to get her to have her portrait painted. I brought into the intrigue Aunt Bunsen, and the result was Hugh's portrait. She was profoundly sympathetic about all my activities except the military,

and wanted to subscribe freely. When too old to see, she used to say how she would like to give, but Aunt Anna would not let her. There was something very great about the strength of her feelings; religious, sympathetic, humane or merely personal.

A second stage came when I was candidate in the Cromer Though over ninety, and blind and feeble, she was eager to join in helping me, and she detected that Father was not a political supporter. She said to him. "You and I, Fowell, must work hard in this election". She invited me to have a large tea party for the supporters at Colne House, and left her bed to come among the people for a few moments, leaning on my arm. She impressed me so much that, when she died, I felt that her life ought to be written, and there was an approach to the daughter of Thackeray, Mrs. Ritchie, about this. In the end Mother and Aunt Thoma collected her letters, and I hope my children will value the copy of this informal biography, of which a fair number were typed. A public biography would have been difficult because of the absence of striking incident from an early age, she having lived quietly for fifty years since she was the wife of a member of Parliament. my grandfather having died in 1858.

W. Richard

In her youth she acted as secretary to her father-inlaw, the Liberator. She had an extraordinary humour which
she clothed in the most original language. A good-looking
girl was a "full drawing-room ornament". Her patronage
was everything to the clergy and good works of the neighbourhood, but she recognised the different functions of those
whom she befriended.

There was a story of a pike which was brought to

Colne House by one of the grandsons. The pike had

swallowed a large roach and the Colne House cook

reported to Grandmother that the pike was enceinte, and not

therefore in good condition to eat. Grandmother replied:

"Then send it to the Vicarage".